

'Best UK Vet' is in the Black Country

by Kevin Orembo MRCVS BVM
Hospital Vet at Blacks Vets Dudley

Black Country pet owners officially have the Best UK Vet 2016 on their doorstep.

Voted for by the pet owning public, Blacks Vets swept the board to win Best UK Vet 2016, with Dudley Veterinary Hospital 1st, closely followed by their Lye branch in 2nd and Sedgley branch in 3rd, in fact all 5 Blacks Vets branches made the Top 8 in the UK.

"We would like to send a heartfelt thanks to all of those who voted for us, we treat each pet as our own, we were overwhelmed when this was recognised for the second year running" said Brian Hogan MRCVS MVB Cert SAS Clinical Director & Partner.

Lungworm - It's In the Midlands - It can be FATAL to dogs



Local vets are strongly advising dog owners to look out for the warning signs of lungworm, following research which has revealed a significant increase in the spread of the potentially fatal parasite across the UK.

Evidence from the Royal Veterinary College¹ confirms the lungworm parasite has spread across the UK. It's now widespread in Central England and even reaching northern regions and Scotland, with one in five vet practices nationwide reporting at least one case of the parasite.

In the Midlands, 199 cases of dogs infected with lungworm have been reported to the Bayer Animal Health 'Lungworm Map' over the last 12 months alone. In light of this increase, Blacks Vets and the Be Lungworm Aware campaign are urging dog owners in the area to speak to their vet about the risks of lungworm (Angiostrongylus vasorum). Dog owners can check the risk in their area and any area they are planning to visit by checking visiting www.lungworm.co.uk/lungworm-map

Dogs can become infected after accidentally swallowing slugs or snails carrying the lungworm larvae. Once inside the system, the parasite travels through the dog's body eventually ending up in the heart. Left untreated, the dog's health can rapidly deteriorate, and can even result in death.

Some dogs don't initially show visible signs of a lungworm infection, but there are a few things to look out for, including breathing problems, excessive bleeding from minor cuts, general sickness or changes in behaviour. Although accidentally swallowing infected slugs and snails is likely to be the main route of exposure, new research has also found that infectious larvae can also be released through the slug and snail slime, surviving for at least 15 days.^{2,3}

Kevin Orembo MRCVS BVM Hospital Vet said: "We would advise all dog owners to consider



lungworm as a serious risk. It is a hidden killer so we are very supportive of the 'Be Lungworm Aware' campaign in the hope that more dogs will be saved from this horrible disease. We urge dog owners to talk to their vet about preventative treatments and be vigilant with their dogs when in the garden or on walks. Even small slugs and snails that live on grass can be potential carriers of lungworm. It's really important that you speak to a vet and ensure your dog is protected."



Lungworm can be fatal to dogs, but it can be prevented. Routine use of a specific treatment, available from veterinary surgeons, prevents dogs from developing a lungworm infection. Some pet owners believe that Lungworm can be prevented using conventional worming tablets which is unfortunately not the case.

"At Blacks Vets we want to protect your pet - we are passionate about preventative care so we pass on discounts we receive to our Healthy Pet Club members. Ask us about saving up to 40%

on preventing Lungworm as well as on vaccinations, flea and worming all year round for dogs, cats and rabbits, just call your nearest branch." said Kevin

CHIPS become LAW for Dogs

Sadly not curly, french or potato...! We are talking Microchips! By 6th April 2016 every dog in the UK MUST be microchipped with up to date registration details BY LAW. "We want to see more pets reunited with their families when they become lost, so to help our local Black Country community we are offering Microchips for only £9.99 (Usually £24.50) until 31st March 2016 for dogs, cats and rabbits. It does cost us money to do this but we want to do our bit to help.

Not all microchips are the same...

We use chips that have a polymer coating to reduce migration for better scanning, offer a 24/7 telephone helpline (not just web) when you need it most and we



do the registration for you too so we help to get it right. On top of that our chips have a propulsion for a more reliable insertion.

What do I do?

Just call your nearest branch and ask for a Microchip appointment and we will book you in with one of our caring Nurses.

Have a microchip but not sure if it is up to date?

Check out our website for guidance on: www.blacksvets.co.uk/services/microchipping.shtml

That's it from me; I'm off now to do my ward rounds here at Dudley Veterinary Hospital. Make sure you are chipped and lungworm aware folks and

give your pets an extra love from Team Blacks today.

Kevin X



References:

*Symptoms vary, including coughing, breathing difficulties, bleeding, general sickness and sudden death. Treatment can result in full recovery but preventative products are available.

1 Royal Veterinary College survey 2012, 1,419 veterinary practices

2. Conboy et al. (2015) WAAVP Liverpool, Spontaneous shedding of metastrongyloid third-stage larvae by experimentally infected Limax maximus.

3. 95% alive after 2 days, 71 % still alive after 15 days on lettuce

Chip anyone?





Microchip

~~£24.50~~ now **£9.99**

until 31st March 2016

For Dogs, Cats and Rabbits

PROTECT YOUR PET and save up to 40% on vaccinations, lungworm protection, wormers and flea treatment all year round... Ask us:

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www.blacksvets.co.uk

Independently rated 5* by our local clients